
By: **Delegates Rosenberg and Brown**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2004

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law - Interference with Commercial Athletic Event - Prohibited**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons from disrupting or interfering with a
4 commercial athletic contest by entering unlawfully on the playing field or
5 assaulting any athletic contestant, athlete, coach, manager, umpire, or referee
6 on the playing field; defining a certain term; providing that a certain sentence
7 may be imposed separate from and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence
8 for any crime based on the act establishing a certain violation; and generally
9 relating to prohibiting the disruption and interference of a commercial athletic
10 contest under certain circumstances.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Criminal Law
13 Section 10-203
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2002 Volume and 2003 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Criminal Law**

19 10-203.

20 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (2) "Commercial athletic contest" means an athletic or sporting event
22 held in a public arena, field, hall, or stadium for admission to which the general
23 public must pay an admission charge.

24 (3) "Object" means an item that may cause injury to a participant in or
25 observer of the commercial athletic contest.

26 (4) "PLAYING FIELD" MEANS A FIELD, COURT, RING, RINK, TRACK,
27 BENCH AREA, SIDELINE, FOUL TERRITORY, BULLPEN, DUGOUT, COACHES' BOX,
28 PENALTY BOX, OR OTHER AREA WHERE AN ATHLETE OR ATHLETIC TEAM OR LEAGUE

1 PERSONNEL MAY BE PRESENT AND WHERE ACCESS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS
2 GENERALLY PROHIBITED DURING AN ATHLETIC OR SPORTING EVENT.

3 (b) A [person] NON-PARTICIPANT IN THE CONTEST may not disrupt or
4 interfere with a commercial athletic contest by:

5 (1) throwing or projecting an object on the playing field or seating area;

6 (2) ENTERING UNLAWFULLY ON THE PLAYING FIELD; OR

7 (3) ASSAULTING ANY ATHLETIC CONTESTANT, ATHLETE, MANAGER,
8 COACH, UMPIRE, OR REFEREE ON THE PLAYING FIELD.

9 (c) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
10 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 months or a fine not exceeding
11 \$250 or both.

12 (2) A SENTENCE IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE IMPOSED
13 SEPARATE FROM AND CONSECUTIVE TO OR CONCURRENT WITH A SENTENCE FOR
14 ANY CRIME BASED ON THE ACT ESTABLISHING THE VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 June 1, 2004.